Question
Why has the structure of the MacGregor Honours Program changed?

Answer
There are a number of reasons why the program has changed but the essential reason is that the needs of our students have changed.

- The current program was the focus of the initial implementation of the Dimensions of Learning (DoL) in 2009 which is now the school wide pedagogical framework. The benefits of DoL, as a framework for effective teaching, are now available to students in all subjects in all year levels.

- The initial program aimed to improve student capacity in reaching their goal of achieving the best pathway to university through a supportive tutorial program. The diversification of student pathways, after the successful base of Year 10 Honours, has seen the Year 11 and 12 Honours Tutorial program become less relevant as these have become part of mainstream practice.

- The inclusion of Year 7 in 2015 as part of the Junior Secondary Program has driven the decision to move the Honours Program to Years 7-10. The expanded and diverse opportunities in Years 11 and 12 means the focus of the program has shifted to Junior Secondary as an opportunity to “value add” for the progress of strong academic students.

Question
What is the aim of the program?

Answer
The program is built around the concept of “like minds working together”. The Honours program is designed to develop an enhanced capacity to collaborate with peers and teachers in achieving outstanding outcomes. Honours students do not do “extra” work but rather complete the same programs as other students to a higher level with targeted teaching strategies for high academic achievers. Creativity and looking “outside the square” will be a special focus.

Question
What has happened to the original streams in Year 10 of Health and Engineering?

Answer
The feedback from past students shows that while they like the specific fields in Year 10 they soon diversify, not only from Health to Engineering and vice versa, but to other areas like Business and Law. In 2015, with our whole school improvement agenda still progressing, all students in Years 10 now have an option to do the original Honours only electives of Engineering and Health. In fact they may even select both during the subject selection process.
**Question**
What will happen in Years 11 and 12 for current 2014 Year 10 Honours students?

**Answer**
Current Year 10 students will still be grouped into mixed English and Maths B classes depending on their elective choices. All former tutorial choices will still be covered but an “opt out” option will be offered as happened in 2014.

---

**Question**
How will current Year 9 students join the program and how will it be structured?

**Answer**
Current Year 9 students who may benefit from the program will be invited to apply for Honours. The structure will be similar to the current program however Maths and English will be the only compulsory subjects. Based on subject selections, however, consideration will be given to having designated Honours Analytical or Natural Science classes if student demand for these subjects is strong. The choice of Health or Engineering will still be available as an elective.

---

**Question**
What is being done for other students who aren’t in the Honours Program?

**Answer**
In Years 7, 8 and 9 there will be targeted classes for students needing extra support in the basics of Literacy and Numeracy as well as Honours classes for high performing students.

---

**Question**
What is being done for students who are in the “middle”?

**Answer**
These students will be targeted in mainstream classes through our teachers “knowing their learners” (using data place mats) and a dynamic whole school approach where some learners may need to be invited to Honours and some may need to be diverted to extra support.

---

**Question**
What are data place mats?

**Answer**
At the start of each semester, MacGregor teachers are given time to analyse each of their classes and identify the strengths and weaknesses of each class. This is done for each student in the class and the results are recorded on a one page document that informs the preparation of lessons for the class.
Question
How do you become part of the Honours Program?

Answer
Any student can apply but all academically eligible students will be invited to apply at each Semester 1 report juncture. All student applications will be reviewed by the relevant Year Level Deputy Principal and the Junior Secondary Co-ordinator. Supplementary interviews will be arranged, if necessary, to determine suitability for the program.

Question
What is the difference between “applying” for the Honours Program and being “invited” to apply for the Honours program.

Answer
Any student can apply but all academically eligible students will be invited to apply at each Semester 1 report juncture. However, during Semester 2 a student may make significant academic advances or be particularly successful in an extension program such as “Unify”. A student and their family may then decide to apply for Honours based on the improvement that has happened.

Question
What are the academic standards required to be “invited” into the Honours Program?

Answer
The key focus on determining academic standards is performance in the “core” subjects of English, Maths, Science and SOSE (History and Geography) to A and B levels.

Question
Do other subjects count?

Answer
In some cases they may count where student “core” results are border line and other evidence is needed to see if the program will be a benefit to the student.

Question
Can a student be moved from the Honours Program?

Answer
As a targeted program, positions will be formally reviewed at the end of year by the Year Level Deputy Principal after previous diagnostic reviews through the year. If support measures for “at risk” Honours students have not been successful, a move back to mainstream classes will be made as the best option for the student.
**Question**
How many Honours classes will there be in each year level?

**Answer**
Our initial assessment is that there will be one class (up to 28) per year level. This will be constantly revisited as part of our whole school review processes.